

**First reading Isaiah 66:18-21**

**‘They shall bring all your brothers from all the nations.’**

Thus says the Lord:

‘For I know their works and their thoughts,  
and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues.  
And they shall come and shall see my glory,  
and I will set a sign among them.

And from them I will send survivors to the nations,  
to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal  
and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard  
my fame or seen my glory.

And they shall declare my glory among the nations.  
And they shall bring all your brothers from all the  
nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in  
chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries,  
to my holy mountain Jerusalem,’ says the Lord, ‘just as  
the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel  
to the house of the Lord.

And some of them also I will take for priests and for  
Levites,’ says the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm 117(116): 1-2. R. Mark 16:15**

**Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.**

O praise the Lord, all you nations;  
acclaim him, all you peoples!

For his mercy has prevailed over us;  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

**Second reading Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13**

‘The Lord disciplines the one he loves.’

Brothers and Sisters: Have you forgotten the  
exhortation that addresses you as sons? ‘My son, do not  
regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary  
when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one  
he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.’ It is  
for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating  
you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does  
not discipline? For the moment all discipline seems  
painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the  
peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been  
trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your  
weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so  
that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather  
be healed.

**Gospel Acclamation John 14:6**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Alleluia.**

**Gospel Luke 13:22-30**

**‘People will come from east and west, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.’**

At that time: Jesus went on his way through towns and  
villages, teaching and journeying towards Jerusalem. And  
someone said to him, ‘Lord, will those who are saved be  
few?’ And he said to them, ‘Strive to enter through the  
narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and  
will not be able. When once the master of the house has  
risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside  
and to knock at the door, saying, “Lord, open to us”,  
then he will answer you, “I do not know where you come  
from.” Then you will begin to say, “We ate and drank in  
your presence, and you taught in our streets.” But he will  
say, “I tell you, I do not know where you come from.  
Depart from me, all you workers of evil!” In that place  
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you  
see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in  
the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And  
people will come from east and west, and from north  
and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.  
And behold, some are last who will be first, and some  
are first who will be last.’

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**Feast Days this week**

**Monday 25th August:** St Louis

**Tuesday 26th August:** St David Lewis(Wales),  
Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God (Dominic  
Barberi)

**Wednesday 27th August:** St Monica

**Thursday 28th August:** St Augustine

**Friday 29th August:** The Beheading of St John the  
Baptist

**Saturday 30th August:** Sts Margaret Clitherow,  
Anne Line and Margaret Ward

**The Cycle of Prayer**

**A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews**

**Prayer**

Let us pray also for the Jewish people,  
to who the Lord our God spoke first,  
that he may grant them to advance in love of his name  
and in faithfulness to his covenant.

Almighty ever-living God,  
who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his  
descendants,

graciously hear the prayers of your Church,  
that the people you first made your own  
may attain the fullness of redemption.

**Roman Missal**

***By the narrow door***

*Responding to the beauty of a spring morning, Robert Browning wrote, "The lark's on the wing, the snail's on the thorn; God's in his heaven, all's right with the world." While the thought is beautiful, the poem suggests a misleading concept of God, which maybe most of us entertain from time to time. "God's in his heaven, all's right with the world." How often we imagine God as "away up there, somewhere," while the world goes its separate way, with the events of every day independent of God. If the Gospel shows God in the person of Jesus Christ intervening in human affairs, combatting the evil forces at work in mankind, at the back of our minds we suspect that the battle against evil is not going God's way.*

*This kind of Deism seldom bothered his chosen people, Israel, in the Old Testament. For them God was not remote, away up there. They felt a divine presence in the events, good or evil, of everyday existence. Everything in history was somehow God's doing. Even when the cream of the nation were exiled to Babylon and their monarchy was utterly destroyed, they continued to search for the hand of God in this tragedy. Out of their shattered hopes there emerged a purer, more spiritual vision of what God meant them to be. Eventually they saw their exile as the means God used to bring salvation to the pagans. They saw their destiny as still being glorious, but now from a more spiritual perspective. As stated in Isaiah, all nations would come to worship the true God in Jerusalem. God would bring good out of the catastrophe they had endured, and this would have an effect as well on nations apart from their own.*

*Constantly at the back of our minds we carry on, as it were, a conversation with ourselves?" talking to ourselves, processing our hopes and fears, making plans. Relating to God means not leaving him on the fringe of all this consciousness, but making him part of it, discussing it with him, asking his guidance, his assistance, expressing to him our gratitude. All day long he is with you, and you can walk with God, you can talk with God, you can discern his loving purpose for you in every passing moment, you can rest in his presence, even while you go about your business. God, however, will not possess your soul unless you sincerely want him to.*

*Sometimes we seem to be only half Christians, without a strong spiritual awareness. We remain on a material plane, like the people in the gospel who ate and drank with Jesus and heard him preaching in their streets, but with never a change in their lives. He warns that people will come from the east and west, from the north and south, and take the places in God's kingdom meant for those who were originally called. So we humbly ask God to help us to enter by that narrow door, to the inheritance meant for us from the beginning. May we not be found wanting but rather persevere to the end.*

*associationofcatholicpriests.ie*